



The Rape of Belgium

A Journal of the American Legation in Belgium

By Hugh Gibson, Witness

The secretary of the American Legation in Belgium, seeing everything, kept a personal diary of Germany's immortal sin. The seal of neutrality is broken, and here is one of the great documents of the war.

You have first the sensation of a curtain's rising on a dreadful play. The scene is Brussels, a place where nothing ever happens. A diplomatic secretary is congratulating himself on having drawn a soft assignment.

Then, as he says, the roof of Europe "falls in" with a crash so loud that everything for a little while seems stiller than before. Events begin to move. There are absurd, fantastic rumors. The war correspondents marvellously arrive almost at once, Richard Harding Davis in a dress suit.

There is humor, too. An American woman wants the stupid war stopped on account of having had her motor seized. Then Belgium's heart stops beating and her blood runs cold. The Germans will invade her! There is an amazing picture of the German diplomats, after having delivered the sentence, smoking cigarettes furiously, like mechanical toys. Shortly afterward is a wonderful picture of the young Belgian King tossing his cap down on the ledge of the throne, throwing his white gloves into it and facing the Chamber of Deputies to inspire his people with the spirit of tragic defiance.

BRUSSELS, July 4, 1914.—After years of hard work and revolutions and wars and rumors of war, the change to this quiet post has been most welcome, and I have wallowed in the luxury of having time to play.

For the last year or two I have looked forward to just such a post as this, where nothing ever happens, where there is no earthly chance of being called out of bed in the middle of the night to see the human race brawling over its differences. (Mr. Gibson had for some years been stationed in Havana.) When pounding along in the small hours of the night, nearly dead with fatigue, I have thought I should like to have a long assignment to just such a post and become a diplomatic Lotos Eater. And at first it was great fun.

That phase lasted until I had had a thorough rest, and then the longing for something more active began to manifest itself.

I sat down and wrote to the Department of State that, while I greatly appreciated having been sent to this much-coveted post, I was ready whenever there might be need of my services to go where there was work to be done.

Nobody Can See Where It Will Lead

July 28, 1914.—Well, the roof has fallen in. War was declared this afternoon by Austria. The town is seething with excitement and everybody seems to realize how near they are to the big stage. Three classes of reserves have already been called to the colors to defend Belgian neutrality. A general mobilization is prepared and may be declared at any time. The Bourse has been closed to prevent too much play on the situation and let things steady themselves. In every other way the hatches have been battened down and preparations made for heavy weather.

To-night the streets are crowded and demonstrations for and against war are being held. The Socialists have Jaures, their French leader, up from Paris, and have had him haranguing an anti-war demonstration in the Grande Place, where a tremendous crowd has collected. Nobody on earth can see where it will all lead. England is trying hard to localize the conflict, and has valuable help. If she does not succeed . . .

An advance guard of tourists is arriving from France, Germany and Switzerland, and a lot of them drop in for advice as to whether it is safe for them to go to various places in Europe. And most of them seem to feel that we really have authoritative information as to what the next few days are to bring forth, and resent the fact that we are too disobliging to tell them the inside news.

July 30th.—No line on the future yet. Brussels is beginning to look warlike. Troops are beginning to appear. The railway stations have been occupied and the Boy Scouts are swarming over the town as busy as bird dogs. A week ago there was hardly a tourist in Brussels. Now the Legation hall is filled with them, and they all demand precise information as to what is going to happen next and where they can go with a guarantee from the Legation that they will not get into trouble.

July 31st.—No, my recent remarks

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Who's Who Against America

Previously Mentioned:
WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST
ABRAHAM CAHAN
WILLIAM HALE THOMPSON
NEWS GABLER HEARST
MORRIS HILLQUIT, OF RIGA

Victor L. Berger, of Milwaukee

The Notorious German-Socialist-American Editor, Abated by the Government for Seditious Utterances, Who Got Money From Arthur Brisbane and Inspiration From William Randolph Hearst

By Samuel Hopkins Adams

FIRST, a German; second, a Socialist; third, an American. Such is the characterization of Victor L. Berger by one of those who know him best. The ex-member of Congress from Wisconsin is the head and front of sedition in his city of Milwaukee, as La Follette is in the state. His daily paper, The Leader, has already been excluded from the second class mailing privilege. Before this article appears in print it perhaps will have been suppressed. There are signs that the paper is "riding for a fall," deliberately provoking the authorities to put a stop to it. In that case Berger will feast on a martyr's crown over the German helmet which he has himself selected as the insignium of his preferred fealty.

Each Man Hurried To His Regiment

Saturday, Aug. 1st.—Last night when I went home, at about midnight, I found the police going about with the orders for mobilization, ringing the doorbells and summoning the men to the colors. There was no time to tarry, but each man tumbled out of bed into his clothes and hurried away to his regiment. Two of my neighbors were routed out a little after midnight and got away within the hour. There was a good deal of weeping and handshaking and farewelling, and it was not the sort of thing to promote restful sleep.

This morning I got down to the chancery at 8:15 and found that Omer, our good messenger, had been summoned to the colors. He had gone, of course, and had left a note for me to announce the fact. He had been ill and could perfectly well have been exempted. The other day, when we had discussed the matter, I had told him that there would be no difficulty in getting him off. He showed no enthusiasm, however, and merely remarked, without heroics, that it was up to him.

Heroic Beginnings in Neutrality

The opening of the world war found Berger the editor and controlling owner of The Milwaukee Leader, a Socialist daily, wielding not only influence but actual authority in the Socialist city where it is published. It was predicted that he would at once take the German side. It can hardly be said that he did this. There is plenty of evidence to show his admiration for the German form of government, but he did not at first seek to uphold the Kaiser—rather the reverse—or to condone the political aspect of Germany's aggressions. In fact, it is probable that his original plan was to lay the blame for the war impartially upon the capitalistic schemes of the various nations, and to preserve an approximate neutrality. In pursuance of this design he delivered an address in September, 1914, in the course of which he said:

"I know many Englishmen and have a real affection for them. Among my friends I count a number of Frenchmen, and I love them. I am a German, and the Germans are my people. But above and beyond all, I am a Socialist."

Then the Germans Fell Upon Him

Above and beyond all, Mr. Berger promptly discovered, he was not a tight-rope walker, whatever else he might be. The Germans in the community straightway fell upon him for that speech and utterly destroyed his delicately adjusted balance. They denounced him as being pro-Ally in his sympathies. The virulently pro-German Milwaukee Free Press attacked him bitterly. Friends and subscribers wavered. Indignant letters, delegations called at the office of The Leader. Mr. Berger

A Challenge from Wisconsin

Milwaukee, Wis., Nov. 3, 1917.

To the Editor of the Tribune:

The East has impugned the loyalty of Wisconsin. Next Tuesday Wisconsin will measure New York City by Hillquit and Kaiserism masked under Pacifism. We ask New York City to give Wisconsin an example in patriotism it can commend.

The Wisconsin Loyalty Legion.

Mitchel Urges Defeat Of Kaiserism Tuesday

Mayor Tells Voters to Answer Men in the Trenches by Repulsing the Judge Who Bends His Knee to Murphy and Hearst and Is Aligned With Pro-Germans—Hillquit Stands for Retreat

Mayor Mitchel closed the final week of his campaign last night with a combined attack upon his three opponents in the Mayoralty race. He spoke four times in Brooklyn and once in Manhattan.

The Mayor directed his strongest attacks against Judge Hyman, the Tammany candidate, and Morris Hillquit, his Socialist opponent. He referred to Mr. Hillquit as "the candidate of open retreat and surrender," and declared that to doubt the defeat of Judge Hyman was to doubt the loyalty of New York. A vote for Mr. Bennett, the Mayor declared, will be in reality a vote for Judge Hyman—hence, a vote for disloyalty.

Mayor Mitchel's Speech

The Mayor said: "On Tuesday morning the real Americans of this city will go 'over the top' against the forces of disloyalty. While American soldiers in France are fighting for those at home, those at home will have the opportunity to fight for their soldiers abroad.

"From the American soldiers in France comes the heart gripping appeal to be loyal to the United States. The eyes of the nation are turned toward New York. Every city and village in the country is waiting to learn whether New York stands with the nation for the vigorous prosecution of the war.

Tells Why Hyman Must Lose

"To doubt the defeat of John F. Hyman is to doubt the loyalty of New York. John F. Hyman is the candidate of William Randolph Hearst, the Kaiser's spokesman.

"He will be defeated because, as vice-chairman of the Friends of Peace, he gave support and countenance to a disloyal group, which in convention assembled applauded the sinking of an American ship.

"He will be defeated because, as a member of the advisory board of the United States chain of sedition and disloyal newspapers.

"He will be defeated because the public knows that when he ran for county judge two years ago Henry Weissman, inserted an advertisement in Hearst's 'Deutsches Journal' calling upon his friends to vote for Hyman because he

Other political news on pages 10 and 11.

Enemy Aliens

Man With Bomb Caught On Seized German Liner

If the guards at a certain shipyard in New York Harbor had not persisted in their determination to search one of the carpenters employed there yesterday, one of the largest German liners seized by the government probably would have been blown up by a charge of gunpowder.

The guards did persist, however, and, as a result, Matthew Vailiekounous, a Lithuanian, was taken to Raymond Street Jail by Federal agents, and a time bomb, which he carried in his inside coat pocket as he started to board the seized German ship, is in the possession of New York representatives of the Navy Department.

This bomb, it is said, had enough pent-up destruction inside it to wreck the great vessel for which it was intended. It is cylindrical in shape, with a metal casing, is 12 1/2 inches long and three inches in diameter. It contained, according to officials, metal filings, sulphate of potash and gun-cotton. One end of the cylinder was filled with sealing wax. The other bore a delicately adjusted electrical timing apparatus. The authorities would not reveal what hour had been set for the explosion.

The arrest of Vailiekounous was made late yesterday afternoon, when he attempted to board the vessel. Guards about the ship stopped him and

informed him that he must be searched before he could board her. He replied that he was working aboard the vessel, but that made no difference to the men who had halted him.

"You'll have to be searched," they told him. "It's the rule."

"It ain't the rule for me," Vailiekounous replied, uneasily. "I won't be searched."

Something in his manner made the guards suspicious, and as he turned to walk away one of them held him.

"I don't believe you," he reiterated. "I'll quit the job first."

A second later the bomb was extracted from his pocket.

British Sink 12 German Ships In Cattagat

Raider, Attempting to Run Gantlet, Destroyed With Her Escort

Cruiser Marie Goes Down in Flames

Half of Crew Killed by Gunfire; Patrol Boats Sent to Bottom

LONDON, Nov. 3.—The German auxiliary cruiser Marie, a disguised commerce raider named the Crocodile, and nine or ten armed German patrol boats have been sunk in a battle with British naval forces operating in the Cattagat, an arm of the North Sea between Sweden and Denmark.

While details still are lacking, it is believed that the battle was brought about through a daring effort of the Germans to slip one more commerce raider through the British lines into the open sea.

The Marie, a 3,000-ton cruiser, carrying 6-inch guns, was so completely overwhelmed with the hail of shot from destroyers that her captain said it was impossible to work her guns from the very start of the fight. The craft sunk after nearly half of its crew of ninety men had been killed.

The Crocodile, a 1,000-ton boat, carrying a load of casks on its upper decks as a disguise, caught fire early in the fight, and, according to Danish fishermen, burned to the water's edge and sank. The other boats, chiefly armed trawlers, were sunk one by one as the British destroyers got within range and concentrated a deadly rain of steel upon them.

Admiralty's Statement

An official statement issued by the Admiralty announced that ten armed patrol craft, in addition to the German auxiliary, which was equipped with 6-inch guns, had been destroyed.

The statement reads as follows: "Further reports from our forces operating in the Cattagat have been received. We destroyed a German auxiliary cruiser armed with 6-inch guns, and we also destroyed ten armed patrol craft. Sixty-four prisoners have been rescued by our forces. No British losses have been reported.

"Further details will be published on the return of our forces to their base." Thirty men on the German auxiliary cruiser Marie of Flensburg were killed in an engagement with British destroyers, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen.

The Marie, a 3,000-ton vessel, met the British destroyers two miles north of Kullen. She immediately opened fire, which was answered by the destroyers. In ten minutes the Marie was ablaze.

Of the eighty-one members of her crew, the dispatch says, thirty were killed and the others took to the boats. Seven wounded sailors subsequently were rescued by the Danish destroyer of Kullen. She immediately opened fire, which was answered by the destroyers. In ten minutes the Marie was

Danes See German Ships In Flames Sink After Battle; Rescue Survivors

COPENHAGEN, Nov. 3.—A German commerce raider, Crocodile, and five armed trawlers have been sunk by British destroyers in Scandinavian waters. Men on two Danish steamships sighted the German vessels in flames and later saw them go down.

The two Danish steamers that witnessed the engagement arrived to-night with twenty-one survivors of the crew of the Crocodile.

One of the Danish sailors gave the following account of the incident: "On Thursday night at 10 o'clock torpedo boats of undetermined nationality were passed by the steamship on which the narrator was a seaman. At 8 o'clock this morning cannonading was heard. Shortly afterward British destroyers steamed by, bound toward us. They were sighted firing westward at five German armed trawlers, which were burning fiercely. There were no signs of life on board. All of them sank in sight of the Danes. Fifteen minutes later they passed the Crocodile, which was likewise aflame and soon sank.

The steamer cruised about and found a single survivor clinging to a plank and a blood-stained empty yawl from the Crocodile. The survivor was too exhausted to give a coherent account of the battle, but said that the yawl had contained twenty men, most of them wounded, when he was picked up by the Danish ship.

The Crocodile had been disguised as a neutral merchantman and carried a deckload of casks. She was probably engaged in attempting to slip through the British cordon and gain the open sea.

Captain Lauterbach, who commanded the German auxiliary cruiser Marie, in a statement to the 'National Tidende' said his vessel was armed with four guns and carried a crew of ninety. She was suddenly attacked in the Cattagat, and the shells fell with such rapidity that his men were virtually unable to work the guns, and after a few shots the vessel was a mass of flames.

The British destroyers then ceased firing and rescued about thirty men. The captain, who was wounded, and fifteen men succeeded in entering a lifeboat and were picked up by a Danish steamer. The rest of the crew was killed during the fight.

CHANGE ATLANTA SERVICE, Nov. 3. Atlanta-Birmingham-Savannah, N. Y. 11:34 P. M. Received 1:34 P. M. Savannah Air Mail 11:34 P. M. —Advt.

Berlin Announces Capture of First American Troops

Italians Halt First Assaults On New Front

Cadorna Holds Enemy—Has Lost 200,000 Men and 1,800 Guns

LONDON, Nov. 3.—Cadorna's men have repulsed the first attempts of the Teuton invaders to cross the Tagliamento River, according to a statement to-day from the Rome War Office. The enemy was met with a terrific machine gun fire, and retreated to the safety of the east bank. The Tagliamento, according to an observer on the Italian front, is a swift flowing stream, and crossing by means of pontoons is practically impossible.

Meanwhile Berlin announces that the last of the Italians have either been driven across the Tagliamento or have surrendered. The Germans stated that their captures have swelled to 200,000 men and 1,800 guns, with other booty, the extent of which cannot be estimated now.

Meanwhile, the chief concern of Allied experts relates to the reported concentration of Zepplins, artillery and infantry in the Trentino region. Swiss soldiers have reported great trainloads of men and munitions travelling toward Trent, and it is considered that a day or so will tell whether the German General Staff has decided upon a drive from the north, where the Trentino loops down into Italian territory, in the hope of cutting into the rear of Cadorna's Tagliamento position.

It may be the German strategy to hammer simultaneously on the Tagliamento front, and from the Trentino through a passage in the Alps. From the easternmost point of the Trentino battle lines to behind the Tagliamento line is a scant seventy miles.

Italian cavalry repeated exploit of "The 600" at Bolaklava, says an observer on the Italian front—on Page 2.

Electric Steered Boat Sunk in Attack on British Off Belgium

LONDON, Nov. 3.—An attack was made to-day on British vessels patrolling the Belgian coast by an electrically controlled high-speed boat, which was destroyed.

The following official statement was given out: "An attack was made to-day on our vessels patrolling the Belgian coast by an electrically controlled high-speed boat. The attack was defeated and the boat destroyed."

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—Employment of high-speed electric boats, controlled from the shore or other vessels, by the Germans, is an old idea, and is rather a confession of impotency than a new thing to be dreaded by the Entente navies, Arthur H. Pollen, the famous British naval critic, declared to-night.

"These boats are virtually useless," said Mr. Pollen, "except in daylight, when their movements can be clearly seen by those who are controlling their movements. Yet, when it is clear, the boats can be easily seen by the vessels they are sent to attack, and their destruction by gunfire is an easy task. A single shot from a four-pounder, striking their vitals, would tear the boat to pieces."

"So it is really a confession of impotency and an admission that the Germans are not capable of striking an intelligent blow against our navies when they resort to a device which was tried out by our Admiralty before the war and found lacking."

Subway Tied Up By Flood From Main

The bursting of a water main between Chambers and Canal streets at 1:30 this morning flooded the subway and tied up all north and south bound traffic between North and Eighteenth Street stations.

The spent of water burst up through the pavement, throwing a jet some twenty feet in the air. Immediately the water began to run down ventilators into the subway, flooding the tracks. For nearly an hour thereafter the main continued to spout, while the water crept further and further along. At Canal Street station it almost reached the platforms. The Sea Beach line of the subway was also under water and tied up.

Persons returning homeward late were refused tickets at the stations and were forced to seek transportation on elevated or surface lines.

Shuttle trains are being operated between Brooklyn Bridge and Atlantic Avenue station, Brooklyn.

The fire and water departments and the Public Service Commission were promptly notified and relief crews were sent at once.

Doughboys Taken by Enemy in Thrust on Rhine-Marne Canal

Germans Call Them North Americans

Statement Indicates U. S. Soldiers Guarding Gate to France in Lorraine

BERLIN, Nov. 3 (via London).—The capture of American soldiers by a German reconnoitering party is announced by the War Office.

The statement says that on the Rhine-Marne Canal North American soldiers were brought in.

The portion of the official statement making this announcement reads: "At the Rhine-Marne Canal, as the result of a reconnoitering thrust, North American soldiers were brought in as prisoners."

Americans Holding East Gate to France, If Berlin Is Correct

By Frank H. Simonds

Granted that to-day's German official statement is accurate, the position of the American troops in France has been disclosed. The German statement announces that prisoners have been taken at the point where the Rhine-Marne canal crosses the battlefield. The Rhine-Marne canal crosses the firing line at the village of Parroy. Parroy is on a road from Nancy to Strasbourg, and is rather less than two miles inside the old French frontier between France and Alsace-Lorraine.

It is about five miles north of the city of Luneville and six miles east of the town of St. Nicholas du Port. Nancy is about a dozen miles due west.

If the Germans are right, then the American troops are in Lorraine, close to the old frontier, and are covering one of the main roads between Nancy and Strasbourg. Along this road the Germans came in their great advance of 1914, which was stopped just east of St. Nicholas du Port. The forest of Parroy, just south of the town of the same name, has seen some of the severest fighting on the whole Lorraine front.

There has been no fighting, however, on this front for more than two years, but if the German statement is correct the American troops are now holding lines covering the eastern gateway to France. The positions which they hold were lost by the French as a consequence of the defeat of Morhange in August, 1914, and regained in the first days of September, 1914.

All the foregoing speculation rests upon the German official statement. Conceivably the Germans have issued this statement in the hope of eliciting information. But the chances are that they have known for many weeks exactly where our troops were.

Americans Captured on French Front Pershing's Men, Is the Belief Here

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—Berlin's terse announcement to-day that "North American" soldiers had been captured by German patrols on the Rhine-Marne Canal on the French front, brought the American people a step nearer to the heart of the great struggle.

There was no doubt here that the men referred to were members of General Pershing's force undergoing final training with French regiments in front line trenches. Confirmation from General Pershing was lacking, but in due course he will transmit the names of any men missing, and this may furnish some light.

It is asserted, a small scouting party was surprised by a German patrol in "No Man's Land" and all captured. Details of the incident never may be fully told, since only captives, and captives would know what happened in the encounter under cover of darkness.

This is the first report received here of the capture of any members of the American forces, as it is upon these patrols that the commanding officers rely for information of activity in the enemy's front line.

Every night the scouts creep out, with faces blackened, against the keen vision of enemy lookouts and, a swift, deadly spurt from a machine gun. They go creeping across the shell-torn ground up to the enemy's entanglements, crawling and listening, dropping flat when a flare breaks out in the air above them, sometimes lying absolutely still for hours while rifles and machine guns hammer overhead.

Not a night passes on many parts of the line but patrols encounter each other. Sometimes it results in firing but that is seldom, for the menace

Night Patrolling Part of Training

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